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1-14. (CANCELED).

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of using an occlusion catheter for the ascending aorta, the method comprising the steps of:

making an incision or a hole in a chest of a patient to provide access to an ascending aorta from the outside and creating an opening at an insertion site of the ascending aorta, and then expanding the opening in the ascending aorta with a dilator:

inserting the occlusion catheter for the ascending aorta, following the expansion of the opening in the ascending aorta, into the ascending aorta through the incision in the chest and the expanded opening in the ascending aorta and fixing the occlusion catheter to the ascending aorta;

placing a balloon in a proper indwelling position and inflating the balloon to occlude the ascending aorta; and

releasing a cardiac muscle protective drug from a drug release aperture to deliver the cardiac muscle protective drug to a vicinity of a coronary ostium.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of using an occlusion catheter for the ascending aorta in which the occlusion catheter has a drug release aperture located adjacent a leading end thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

making an incision or a hole in a chest of a patient to provide access to an ascending aorta from the outside and creating an opening at an insertion site of the ascending aorta,

expanding the opening in the ascending aorta with a dilator:

inserting the occlusion catheter into the ascending aorta through the incision in the chest and the expanded opening in the ascending aorta, following the expansion of the opening in the ascending aorta, and fixing the occlusion catheter so that the leading end of the occlusion catheter is located within the ascending aorta;

placing a balloon in a proper indwelling position and inflating the balloon to occlude the ascending aorta; and

releasing a cardiac muscle protective drug from the drug release aperture of the occlusion catheter to deliver the cardiac muscle protective drug to a vicinity of a coronary ostium.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of using an occlusion catheter for the ascending aorta in which the occlusion catheter has a drug release aperture located adjacent a leading end thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

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making an incision in a chest in the region of the heart of a patient to provide access to an ascending aorta for the catheter;

creating an opening at an insertion site in the ascending aorta in the region of the heart;

expanding the opening in the ascending aorta with a dilator;

inserting the occlusion catheter into the ascending aorta through the incision in the chest and the expanded opening in the ascending aorta, following the expansion of the opening in the ascending aorta;

securing the occlusion catheter with the leading end of the occlusion catheter located within the ascending aorta;

placing a balloon of the catheter in a proper indwelling position and inflating the balloon to occlude the ascending aorta; and

releasing a cardiac muscle protective drug from the drug release aperture of the occlusion catheter to deliver the cardiac muscle protective drug to a vicinity of a coronary ostium.

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